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Title: Need to regularise the services of Gramin Dak Sevaks working in the Department of Posts in rural areas.

PROF. M. RAMADASS (PONDICHERRY): The rural post offices render a public utility and essential service as the Department of Posts, basically a service department, caters to the need of communications of all cross sections of the society well within their reach and without much eye to the profit and loss. Deplorable and primitive service conditions govern the employees who manned the rural postal system. They are called the Agents, Part time workers, Gramin Dak Sevaks (GDS), a misnomer, making it appear that their services are remunerated by payment of a commission, not the real wages compared to Government servants though they perform all the duties of a regular postal employees. The GDS employees have been denied the proper wage structure and service conditions. The GDS employee is still termed as a part time employee as there is no time factor for the 90% of work performed by him in the new areas except to the traditional services. There is not time factor for the work performed by them *or* no entity is given to the duties of delivery and conveyance except for a meagre amount of Rs. 100 as a combined Duty Allowance, which is gross injustice as they come out of the barriers of all distinct categories performing the duties of all the other posts. I urge upon the Government to upgrade these Gram Dak Sevaks as regular employee of postal organization as they have been working more than 20 years in the same position in the Department of Post & Telegraphs. We must offer a better wage structure at par with Class-IV employee in the Government of India. They should be paid house rent, office maintenance allowance and leave and medical facilities.